

## Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, February 8, 1839, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, February 8, 1839.

. . . . Calhoun and his friends are acting well so far. They are now I believe sincere in their advocacy of the great principle you set out with, because they feel that, if the Republicanism of the Govt. is to be merged in a financial system and the money Interest becomes the ruling power of the State, that the Southern political influence is lost forever. Against this Calhoun, for his own sake, will struggle with all the ardor which his ambition can inspire and we shall therefore have his efficient aid in carrying out the measures which you have so gloriously impressed as the leading policy, of the great party which you have gathered together for the Country's good.

I have found among the pamphlets of Mr. Jefferson in the Library, one which Mr. J. has ascribed to John Taylor of Va. I mean to republish it in the Globe. I beg you to read it. You will find how perfectly all the steps you took while at the Head of the Govt. were calculated to restore the principles of the Revolution and to counteract the schemes which Hamilton engrafted on our Institutions under the power and sanction of Washington's great name. . . . .

The President, too, had determined to pay you a visit, but Polk thinks it would hurt his (Polk's) prospects. That they would call it electioneering or dictation. I do not believe it. The President's affection for you could not, I think, be so misrepresented as to make it a source of dissatisfaction with any party in Tennessee. You, however, could let me know

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privately, how far a visit pending the Canvass might give rise to the jealousy of the people of a State, which I am aware, would as little brook foreign interposition in the elections, as any other in the Union. Nothing but deception as to the motives of the President in going into the State, could make it have a bad effect, but how far the imposition may be brought about by the falsehood of Bell's presses and his partizans it is difficult to say.

One of your private letters to me in relation to the defalcation at New York, I read to Bancroft of Boston when he was here. It had some fine strong and noble sentiments in it and Bancroft begged it of me as an autograph. As an historian he is a mighty man for having traits of character from the men of the age who belong to history. And so, as I thought he could not get a better facsimile of the leading points of your mind, I gave him the letter although I was reluctant to part with it. I told him I would reclaim, if you disapproved of my giving it to him. If you can rely upon my Judgment, there is nothing in the style, sentiment or facts referred to in the letter although marked "private" that could make it improper to give it to the Historian of the United States. With 0028 4 my love to Mrs. Jackson and the children, Kind regards to Andrew and major Donelson, I am, dear sir,

Yours affectionately